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Olsen twins off to France

You know you're getting older when the cover of an Olsen twins video shocks you.

Can the two young ladies peering at consumers from the box of their latest production be Mary-Kate and Ashley, the same little girls who — from infancy — made Michelle Tanner and "Full House" commonly recognized names?

CAROLE-ANNE HALLYBURTON

Oh-my-goodness-yes is the answer.

Grab your passports and get ready for the adventure of a lifetime. Those Olsen twins are headed for France on Nov. 9 when their latest feature-length video arrives in stores everywhere. This presentation, a production from Dualstar Entertainment Group and Warner Bros. Family Entertainment, will have all eyes on Mary-Kate and Ashley as the two precocious teen sensations set out to spend their spring break vacation in Paris.

This time, the pair star as identical twin protagonists Alison and Melanie, who've just been handed a gift worth its weight in gold. Sent on a trip abroad to visit their well-intentioned but clueless grandfather, the two fall in love with France.

Of course the two boys they meet and fall head over heels for only add to the frenzy.

Grandfather, who is (it bears repeating) oblivious to the effort it takes to entertain a couple of 14 year-old girls, has no intention of letting his pretty little guests halt his workaholic tendencies. Once his granddaughters arrive, he pats each on her head and turns them over to the care of his fastidiously boring assistant Jeremy.

No sooner has the threesome started Day One of its calculated touring schedule than Alison and Melanie start to squirm. They must, they agree, find a way to give this Jeremy the slip. And - wouldn't you know it - a comical course of events puts them directly into the path of two young French boys who have the hearts as well as the mopeds to help the girls break ties with their ominous tour guide.

To put it simply, Jeremy gets ditched; the boys learn the wonders of American teen-ism; and Alison and Melanie get what they consider the chance of a lifetime, touring Paris in their own personal style.

From the Louvre to the Eiffel Tower, the newly-acquainted foursome scurries throughout the city from one hilarious escapade to another. In the process, the twins get their first taste of French food, European culture and style, and the giddy effects of that long-awaited first crush.

Granted, most parents would cringe to think of their own children pulling a stunt like the Olsens' characters do in "Passport to Paris," but buyers of this video needn't worry; Dualstar and Warner Bros. do an excellent job of keeping things in proper perspective here.

For one thing, Jeremy stays in such hot pursuit of the group that there's no time for real mischief. If he catches up with them, the girls know, they can kiss their fun - not to mention their new friends - goodbye.

"We're excited to share our first experience in Paris with our fans," the Olsens said in a statement to the press. "We learned a lot about the French people and their culture, but our favorite part was racing around the city on the back of mopeds."

Known for interacting with their fans, Mary-Kate and Ashley will offer a grand prize sweepstakes entry for a trip to Paris inside every copy of the video. The "Passport to Paris" vacation offers the all-expense-paid trip plus $3,000 spending money to a family of four.

Each video also includes a movie poster signed by the Olsens.

"This was the best spring break we've ever had," said the twins.

One look and fans will know why.

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